

INSIDE TODAY

WORLD NEWS

FIJI UN-BLOC'D



FILE - In this file photo taken Dec. 6, 2006, Fijian military Commodore Frank Bainimarama speaks at a ceremony at the main military barracks in Suva. Fiji's military ruler defied international pressure to announce elections by Friday, May 1, 2009, confirming that he would not hold them for at least five years and setting the stage for his country's ouster from a South Pacific bloc. See INTERNATIONAL NEWS


SPORTS NEWS

PACMAN VS. HITMAN



Manny Pacquiao, of the Philippine, left gestures a British boxer Ricky Hatton looks away during the weigh-in for their junior welterweight boxing match Friday, May 1, 2009, in Las Vegas. The two will fight in a junior welterweight boxing match in Las Vegas on Saturday, May 2.

See Sports Today



Price of a barrel of petroleum today:

US\$ 53.20

Car plows into Dutch parade, killing spectators



People burn candles at a church at for the victims of the disaster in Apeldoorn.

THE HAGUE – A man who tried to ram his car into the Dutch royal family, killing six onlookers at a parade, died in hospital Friday as details emerged of how he lost his job and was about to lose his home. The driver, who has not been officially identified, died in hospital in the early hours from severe head trauma, as relatives of the six victims that he mowed down tried to come to terms with their loss.

The tragedy, labelled “an act of despair” by newspapers, also prompted questions about royal security and whether there would have to be a rethink about staging the annual Queen’s Day procession.

Newspapers, displaying gruesome photographs of the aftermath of the attack, at the royal parade in the central city of Apeldoorn Thursday, said the man had recently lost his security guard job. “Recently, he informed me that he had been dismissed and could no longer pay the rent,” landlord Sem Bosman told the mass market De Telegraaf newspaper. “He was due to have come today to transfer the keys to a new tenant.”

The 38-year-old was described by his former landlord and neighbours as quiet, solitary, friendly, soft-spoken and a “dark horse”.

The tragedy happened when the driver of a black Suzuki passenger car deliberately slammed his vehicle into Queen’s Day party goers.

The attack happened in full view of Queen Beatrix, Crown Prince Willem Alexander, his wife Maxima and other members of the royal family, who were in an open-top bus, which had been the target.

The car missed the bus and rammed into the foot of a monument, leaving the dead and injured in its wake.

Two men and two women died shortly after impact. Another man died in hospital later Thursday, followed overnight by the driver himself.

Then on Friday afternoon, the defence ministry announced that a military policeman, 55-year-old Roel Nijenhuis, had died in hospital -- bringing the death toll to seven.

Eight people were still in hospital, including one woman in a critical condition, said the Apeldoorn authorities. Two of those in hospital were children, both in a stable condition.

Investigators said the man had told police his action had targetted the royal family.

“The death of the suspect means the end of the criminal investigation against him,” said prosecution service spokesman Wim de Bruin.

But the state prosecutor later said he was keeping open the possibility that several people were involved in the incident, although there was not yet “any indication” to support that theory.

Investigations so far had yielded no indication of terrorist links or a broader conspiracy.

Dutch commentators, meanwhile, speculated whether Thursday’s events would have to signal a change in the annual celebration of Queen’s Day -- the birthday of Beatrix’s mother Juliana.

Hundreds of thousands of Dutch take to the streets on April 30 every year in orange wigs and elaborate hats to celebrate the event which is regarded as an opportunity for ordinary citizens to get close to the royal family.

“A national illusion died on April 30, 2009: the accessibility of the Orange family on Queen’s Day,” lamented the Volkskrant newspaper, while the Algemeen Dagblad said the attack put the



Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands greets well wishers, shortly before a car ploughed into the crowd, during festivities marking Queen’s Day in Apeldoorn, Netherlands, Thursday, April 30, 2009. Dutch authorities say a speeding car that raced toward an open bus carrying Dutch Queen Beatrix and her family during a holiday parade has killed four people and injured 13 others. Prosecutors said the incident was deliberate, but not an act of terrorism. The small black car was heading at high speed toward the royal bus and passed within a few meters of it before plowing into a stone monument. Police declined to identify the driver beyond saying he was a white Dutch male, aged 38, who had no police record or history of mental illness.

spotlight on royal security. “Queen’s Day will never be the same again,” it predicted.

After the incident, 250 policemen were deployed at the scene and the justice and interior ministry said it had launched an independent enquiry on the security measures used during the event.

The last serious attack on Dutch royalty was the assassination of Prince William I of Orange, founder of the House of Orange, in 1584.

But the Netherlands’ image as a safe refuge has twice been shaken in recent years.

In 2002, the right-wing anti-

immigration politician Pim Fortuyn was assassinated. Two years later, controversial filmmaker Theo van Gogh was also killed, allegedly by an Islamic extremist.

This year’s official celebrations were cancelled in the aftermath of Thursday’s tragedy and the national flag was flown at half-mast at royal palaces and government buildings.

On Friday, a long line of people queued to sign the register of condolences placed at the Apeldoorn city hall, while others laid flowers at the scene of the deaths.

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Hard at work at the Divi Village



EAGLE BEACH – The New England Patriots' Cheerleaders were caught working very hard at the Divi Village in the beautiful pool area, by amateur shutterbug Marcel Nahr, Food and Beverage Manager, Divi and Dutch Village.

Photographers Jim Stouffer and Brad Thompson were shooting cheerleader Jessica at the waterfall, for the upcoming 2010 swimsuit calendar, with all other cheerleaders helping out as assistant photographers, while in-house sales director Gabriel Casey who is an avid fan of the New England Patriots, ventured out of his office to oversee the production. The 2010 Swimsuit Calendar will be reversible and feature 24 beautiful photos of the squad against the island beaches.



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Celebrating 25 years!

Passions Restaurant hosts Friends of Arion

The magic of synergy, kisses, feet in the sand and a fantastic dinner



which a Crianza, the number one selling Rioja in the US, was poured. The dessert was light and foamy and delicious: Mixed Berries with a Champagne Zabaione. To stay in the kissing mood, coffee was served with Hershey Kisses of course. For Marc Giesbers, Food & Beverage Manager of Passions Restaurant and for Govert van der Hout of the Arion Wine Company, and representative of the house of Marqués de Cásseres on Aruba, the evening could not have gone any better. Guests were happy and in a most



romantic mood. "We'll do this again soon," said Govert van der Hout to his Friends as they were leaving Passions Restaurant. Well, see if this dinner can be topped...



EAGLE BEACH - Sometimes everything comes together in perfect synergy. This was the case last Wednesday, April 29, when fifty good Friends of Arion were guests at Passions Restaurant at the Amsterdam Manor Resort at the Besame Mucho dinner. Feet in the sand, a long weekend ahead of them and a perfect dinner with fantastic Marqués de Cásseres wines: what's not to like. The evening started with a sunset toast with Rosado rosé, accompanied by tapas and, of course, lots of Spanish songs with a starring role for Besame Mucho. The Spanish theme would continue during the entire evening. For starters there was a Salad of Marinated Asparagus and Grilled Tiger Prawns with Caramelized Bacon and Roasted Red Pepper Aioli with a lovely glass of dry, young Rioja. The main course consisted of Grilled Beef Tenderloin, a Roasted Vegetable Pincho and Potato Casserole with



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Dream Wedding on the Greens



DIVILINKS--Richard Arends & Arleen Oduber hosted a beautiful wedding reception at Divi Links, on the greens adjacent to the picturesque ninth hole, immediately after having tied the knot at city

hall. Richard's parents Simon & Mary France Arends, and Arleen's mom Ana Zoraida Oduber, helped the love-birds

greet their guests, for a two hour cocktail party, with live music by El Prove.

Continued on page 5

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Continued from page 4



Divi Links club house, home to fabulous Windows On Aruba prepared a deluxe selection of hors d'oeuvres for fifty close family members

and friends and extended wishes for eternal bliss to the Arends & Oduber match made in heaven.

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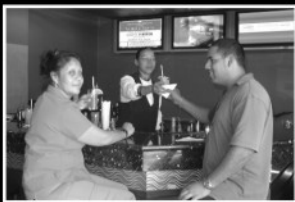


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At the Crystal Theater

"Havana Dance," is the hottest Cuban show on the island



ORANJESTAD - The elegant Crystal Theater sparkles with all the excitement of Las Vegas as the magnificent "Havana Dance" explodes on stage with a thrilling mix of Latin & Cuban music, colorful costumes and high energy, contemporary Cuban

dance.

"Havana Dance" is the biggest stage production in the Caribbean, featuring Cuban dancers and entertainers directly from Havana. The show delivers a purely Cuban spectacle, with a cast of 12 female ballerinas, 4 male dancers, 2 singers and 3 acrobats, performing a fresh program accompanied by live Cuban music performed on stage by a genuine Cuban orchestra, consisting of 5 professional Cuban musicians. This live dance AND live music combination as seen in our pictures, is 'first of its kind' on the island.

While the greater part of the "Havana Dance" review enjoys predominantly Cuban flavor, the show is graced with a truly unique Caribbean choreography, and many tropical touches. "Havana Dance" unfolds on a two-tiered stage, with entrances and exits to and off the arena at different heights, which presents a



new visual concept. The custom-designed costumes are sensual, daring, colorful, and luxurious and set "Havana Dance" apart from any other cabaret.

Producer Steve Hudson who enjoyed an unprecedentedly-successful seven-year run with his previous "Let's Go Latin" review, conceived and created an exciting and much-evolved new must-see spectacle.

Tickets for "Havana Dance" are US\$ 49.- Children under 12 pay US\$25.-

Tickets are available at the theater box office, Renaissance Aruba Resort, and can also be purchased

at the concierge's desk at the Renaissance Aruba Resort. Other ticket vendors include the De Palm Tours and Pelican Adventure Activity Centers at the resorts. A special dinner & show package is also available in conjunction with the L.G. Smith's Steak & Chop House for US\$89.- per person.

For additional information and reservations call the Crystal Theatre at Tel.: 583 6000, ext. 6115, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. After 5 p.m., call tel.: 583 6000 ext. 6357. Don't miss an opportunity to be greatly entertained by the sizzle of "Havana Dance." □

Driftwood Authentic Aruban Seafood Restaurant offers diners the ultimate dining experience in freshly line caught fish.

ORANJESTAD - Why should seafood enthusiast and other diners alike go to Driftwood Restaurant? Well let's start by mentioning that their fish is caught daily by the owner himself and prepared by a local chef. "Just like mama makes it." The food is fresh, the staff is friendly, and the place is definitely buzzing. If you want to catch your own fresh fish and can't stay for a sit-down dinner, enjoy their Charter Fishing trip and have them prepare it for you. Trust me; it doesn't get any fresher than this: From pier to plate as their motto says.



Fried fish would be the common choice, but you can get your entrée broiled, grilled or baked. However you can indulge in the more guilty options for lobster, Alaskan king crab legs, grouper, shrimp, Black Angus tenderloin and so forth. Ease your

conscience and add a salad or go all out and try their delicious crab cakes, fish soup, garlic escargots, lobster crepe and coconut shrimps before your hearty entrée.



While seafood stars at Driftwood, fish-phobic diners will not go hungry. They have a staggeringly vast menu, which doesn't miss much of anything, from authentic Aruban seafood, lobster, Alaskan king crab legs to chicken, lamb or steaks.

Q: Why do we serve only fresh line caught fish?

A: How fresh would you be after a net caught fish frozen import from Asia?



Driftwood restaurant has a long tradition of serving the best seafood and steaks for over 20 years!

Don't forget to make this a must dine at restaurant while on vacation, you are sure to indulge in some great tasty seafood.



Restaurant information and reservation: open daily (closed on Tuesdays) from 5pm-10:30pm. Tel. 583-2515. Located at Klipstraat 12 in the heart of downtown Oranjestad, within driving distance from the resorts. □



FRESH FISH TONIGHT?

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At The Westin Resort, Aruba

Beautiful seaside blessing held on Palm Beach



PALM BEACH – This past Monday, Massachusetts couple Catherine and Todd Schmidt held a ceremonial blessing for their son, Todd Robert, Jr., on the shores of Palm Beach in front of The Westin Resort, Aruba.

Exactly three years ago, on April 27, 2006, Catherine and Todd were married at sunset on this same beach. They shared this memory with 75 of their closest family and friends, during a wedding and reception coordinated by Inge van Roon and the special events team at the resort.

Explains Catherine about choosing the same spot for the blessing, “On August 28, 2008, Todd and I brought our precious baby boy, Todd Robert, Jr., into this world. We new immediately that we wanted to have him blessed on this ‘happy island.’ To make this even more memorable, Todd Robert’s blessing outfit is made from the very same gown I wore on my wedding day, this date 3 years ago. We are so blessed to have this opportunity.”

On Tuesday, along with Todd Robert, Jr.’s grandparents, Oma and Opa Theriault and NeNe and GrandBob Schmidt, Todd Robert received his blessing from Reverend Greg Lyder, and more special memories were made for the family with the help of the Westin team!



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EAGLE BEACH - Oasis Luxury Condominiums is a Mediterranean-style designed complex located on the prestigious Eagle Beach right next to Chalet Suisse consisting of a total of 35 units distributed on five (5) floors. The one, two and three bedroom suites have a perfect view of the ocean and beach. The units include, among other amenities, floor to ceiling glass doors and panoramic windows, spacious terraces, marble bathrooms, European kitchens with granite counter tops and a full stainless steel appliance package including washer and dryer. This 35-condominium complex will feature a beautiful swimming pool with a beach style entry with

waterfalls and fountain and state of the art fiber optic lighting. The entrance of the building has a drive-up covered entrance and an elegant two-story lobby leading to the sun-filled hallways and corridors. The common area will facilitate the owners with a well-equipped gym overlooking the gardens and the pool. The garden will feel like an oasis true to the projects name. There will also be a recreation room and sofas throughout the com

mon area to lounge and relax. Further amenities include a 24/7 security, a full concierge and a rental program for the owners who want to earn a return on their investment. The concierge service will be helpful to assist the owners in making their 'homecoming' a very pleasant return. Each condo will have one designated parking space exclu-

35 EXCLUSIVE OCEAN VIEW UNITS STARTING IN THE LOW 400'S

sive to the owners. Construction on Oasis at Eagle Beach is moving fast. Fifteen of the thirty five units have already been sold. The condominiums will be ready for occupancy by March 2010. Oasis is located on Eagle Beach which allows for an easy access, even on foot, to the best casinos, restaurants, golf courses, shopping areas and night life the Aruba has to offer. The experienced sales team of Oasis invites you for a visit to learn about this new gem on the beach.

The site tour will take you up in the complex where you will enjoy spectacular views of the ocean and beach as well as a wonderful view of Oranjestad where the cruise ships are docked. The views from the rooftop terrace are stunning to say the least. The Oasis sales team is ready to assist you.



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Experience authentic regional ambiance every Friday evening at Pam-Pam Café



Pam-Pam Café, located in the charming Perle D'Or Resort in Bubali, is the place to be on Friday evenings for a great taste of regional music, dance, food and hospitality, as proprietors and hosts Nico and Monique van de Borne welcome guests for their weekly "Latin Night."

Pam-Pam Café is situated in a delightful tropical setting that is the perfect backdrop for a show by 2002 World Salsa Champions Janice and Oslin Boekhoudt, who run their Pachanga Dance School

out Perle D'Or. They and their dance troupe put on a show of the exotic Zouk, originating from the French islands of Guadeloupe and Martinique, and inspiration for the Brazilian Lambada. If their sensual movements inspire any audience members, they can sign up at Pam-Pam for private dance lessons from the Pachanga crew, which also teach Salsa and Merengue.

In addition to the island music and dance, reasonably priced snacks (10.50 in Aruban florins (\$6) for an Assorted Snack Platter or Buffalo Wings among



other choices) and cocktails are available throughout the evening. From 11 PM until closing time, Pam-Pam offers a special on top shelf whiskey for only 6 Aruban



florins (\$3.50)

If you are looking for the "real deal" in Caribbean entertainment and ambiance and a chance to rub elbows with islanders, schedule Pam-Pam Café as your Friday night entertainment!

Pam Pam restaurant

First-time patrons will be pleasantly surprised by an appealing a la carte menu that is quite affordably priced, and main courses, (25) which are priced between \$13 / \$22.

Pam-Pam's house specialty is a unique method of preparation, which presently,

in Aruba, is found only at their establishment and which they have dubbed their "Gourmet Meal." A grill and a collection of the freshest of ingredients for the various dishes ordered are assembled tableside, and patrons prepare the food themselves, controlling their preference of seasonings and garnishes, along with degree of doneness, providing a unique and personal taste treat. It is suggested that reservations for this singular dining experience be made one day in advance.

When you want to see restaurants menu, visit: www.visitaruba.com Phone; 5877710 or 5932660

"Aruhiba" Aruba's homemade cigar



ORANJESTAD - Benjamin Petrochi has started the newest

export product of Aruba, locally produced cigars called 'Aruhiba'. These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrochi has always had an interest in the cigar business and has also sold cigars from outside, and now he is growing his own tobacco crop. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba he started his own production and cultivation of "Aruhiba" cigars in Aruba. The process took 5 years Petrochi's dedication to the cigars is important for the molding and



process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. The cigar case is specially designed for the cigars with the logo 'Aruhiba' and 'Made in Aruba'. Petrochi considers 'Aruhiba' a promotion for Aruba through fine quality cigars.

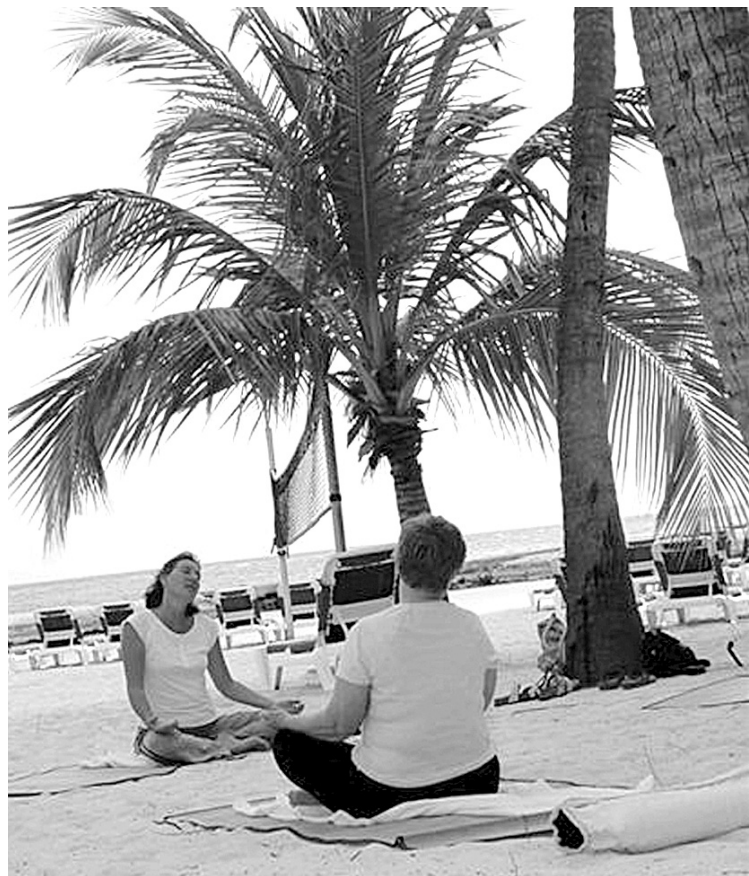
The company sells international cigars as well. Buy a gift box of Aruhiba Corona with five cigars and get 1 free for \$35.00. Located at the Historic Dutch



Windmill from 9am to 8pm. Open on Sunday. And also at Tamarijn: open 9am - 5pm and Sunday from 9am to 1pm. The only place to get Aruhiba and all major credit cards accepted. We have homemade and best premium Cuban Cigars. All cigars are legal through costum. Call 586-7833 or 593-6177. Open for tour operators and we have a large parking space. Come and see Mr. Petrochi rolling the cigars everyday.

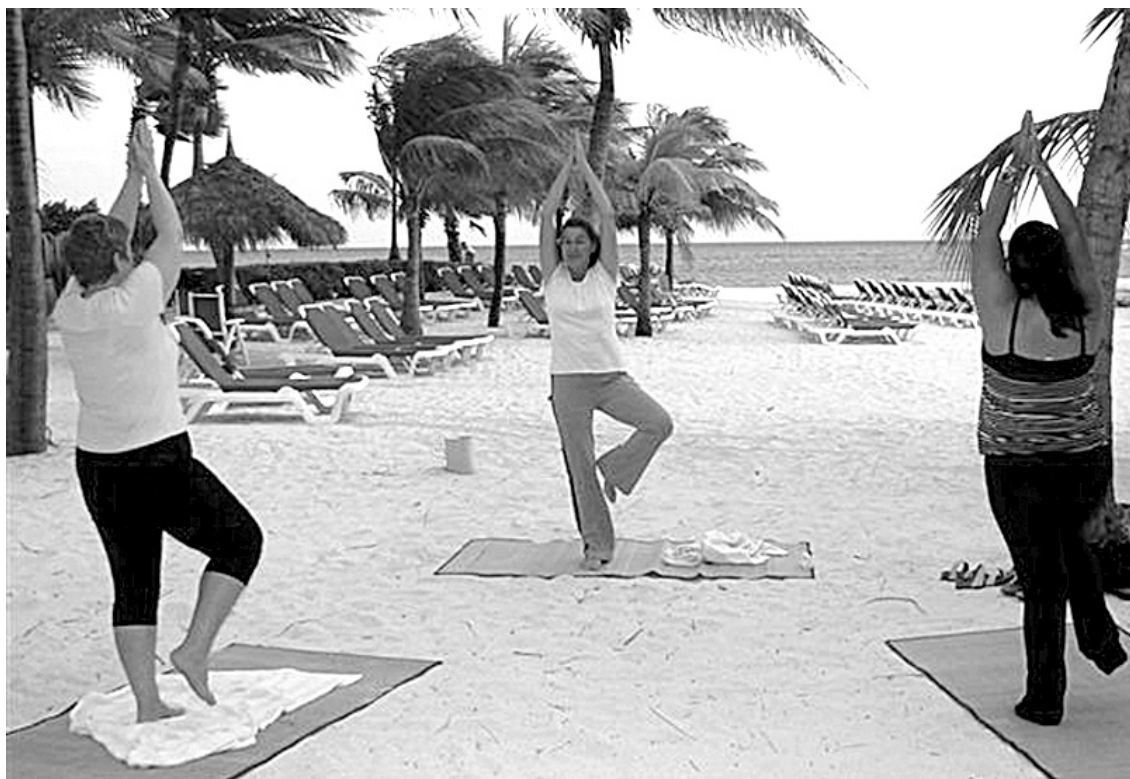


Okeanos Spa continues Yoga at sunset



ORANJESTAD – Okeanos Spa offers new Yoga sessions, every Tuesday at the Renaissance Ocean Suites on the beach, from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. The class finishes just about sunset and is guaranteed to de-stress and relax all those who take it. The class is taught by yoga-master Leontine Merkies and offers gentle stretches, deep breathing, and the mastery of various relaxation techniques.

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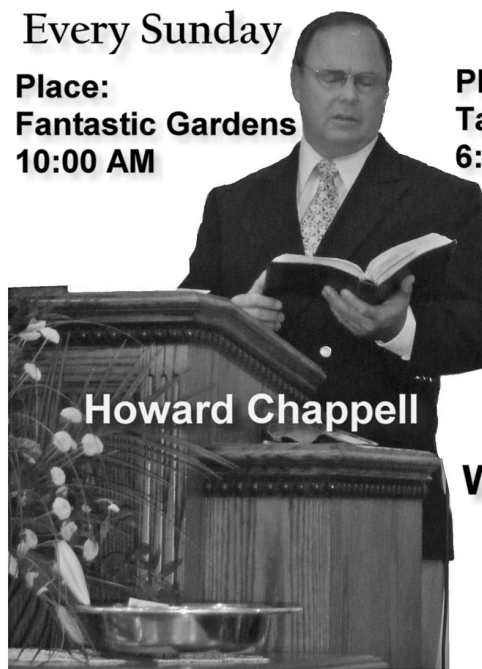


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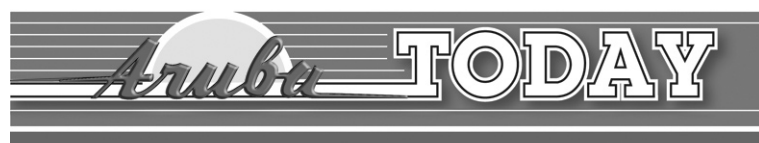
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What Finland can teach America about true luxury

New York – What is true luxury? Just when I thought I'd settled on my answer – a flat-screen TV the size of Kansas and a leather-upholstered car that can travel

at triple the speed limit – I made several visits to Finland. Shortly after my return the financial crisis hit. Finland has been on my mind ever since. In these hard times,

we could learn a few things about luxury from the Finns. Strolling the streets of Helsinki, the capital, I noticed a lack of grand architecture and opulent

homes, and an abundance of modest cars. Helsinki was a nice enough city, and it had some gems of modern design, but part of me felt that Finland was a bit dull. And, strangely, some of the Finns I met seemed to take pride in this.

Finland seemed even duller on my next visit in July. The weather was glorious, but Helsinki felt like a ghost town. I learned that most Finns take a five-week summer vacation, and that many of them disappear for the entire time to tiny, bare-bones cottages in the woods. Curious, I wrangled an invitation to visit one of these secluded cabins. It was meticulously cared for, but lacked any creature comforts. I quickly realized that there was nothing to do and no one to see. After a couple of days at the cabin I was a convert. It was marvelously relaxing, and I realized the Finns were on to something – a form of luxury that had little to do with high-end products, the quest to acquire them, or the need to show them off. While some Finns pursue the material trappings of success, most seem to feel that the pleasures of time and solitude are more precious.

During my visits, I met some North American expats, including a Canadian who'd lived in the US for years. "I talk to friends back in North America," he told me, "and they tell me about all the latest toys they've bought. Here I'm just puttering away on my little house like a Finn, and that's about it. The pace of life is slower. I like that."

Americans in Finland shared similar sentiments. But they weren't naive about the place, and there was a reason they weren't

buying the latest toys. "I'll never become rich in Finland," one explained, "the taxes are just too high." But for him it was a trade-off worth making. "Great healthcare, basically free. My kids get one of the best educations in the world, free." By the way, that includes college, free. He had no plans to move back to the States. As I spent more time in Helsinki, my own notion of the luxuries available in Finland expanded to include more than just the quiet pleasures of a cabin getaway. Finnish cities are filled with universally well-maintained and high-quality schools, hospitals, buses, trains, and parks. While most Finns might never be able to own a well-appointed SUV or a big house, they value the less-tangible assets they do have, which add up to quality of life and peace of mind.

Finland doesn't pay lip service to providing a level playing field for all its citizens. It really does give the vast majority of its citizens a fair and equal chance in life, in a way that the US just doesn't, no matter how much Americans like to think it does.

Finland has its downsides, of course. The Finns I met described high rates of depression and alcoholism among their countrymen, and admitted that many Finns seem to suffer from low self-esteem. When I returned to the dynamic bustle of New York, I was happy to be back, even with the financial crisis decimating the economy.

Compared with Finns, Americans have qualities I admire and treasure: optimism, an entrepreneurial spirit, and a willingness to be opinionated, for starters.

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Swine flu or not, many workers can't stay home

NEW YORK — You wake up one morning and you're feeling achy and feverish. The directions from health officials battling swine flu are clear: Stay home from work. Don't risk infecting others. And certainly don't send a sick kid to school. But what if you're one of the estimated 57 million working Americans with no paid sick days? Staying home could mean losing a paycheck, or worse, losing your job entirely.

The prospect of workers showing up with swine flu — or sick kids infecting their schoolmates — is bringing added urgency to efforts to pass a federal law guaranteeing paid sick leave.

"The problem has really come into sharp relief the past few days," said Debra Ness, president of the National Partnership for Women and Families, which has long pushed for paid sick leave. "Many people don't even realize that almost half the private sector — 48 percent — has no sick days, not even a single one."

"We have officials telling people to stay home when they're sick," she added. "Well, guess what? That can be the beginning of economic disaster for many, especially in this economy."

Making matters even worse: Those least likely to have sick leave are low-income workers, particularly in fields like food services, child care and the hotel industry — in other words, the people you most want to be staying home if they're sick. "The public health implications of this are huge," Ness said.

The Associated Press interviewed a number of workers in the food industry. Not surprisingly, most didn't want their names used for fear they would be fired. They told stories of coming to work with a fever or flu in order to keep

their jobs, and of seeing sick co-workers sneezing and coughing near food.

"As a student I'm working to help pay my education, so I have to keep this job," said one who agreed to be identified, Grace Fuhr, a bartender and waitress at the Bucca di Peppo restaurant in Milwaukee.

"I've had to work sick — when I was pressured to work after a car accident, and when I've had a cold," said Fuhr, 21. "Swine

flu could create an epidemic in restaurants. I have co-workers who are single parents and have impossible decisions when their kids are sick."

A study on sick leave found that 68 percent of those without paid sick days had gone to work with a contagious illness like the flu or a viral infection. And one of six workers reported that they or a family member had been fired, suspended, punished or threatened with firing after

taking time off to care for themselves or a family member, according to the 2008 study by the University of Chicago's National Opinion Research Center.

Making the problem even thornier: Kids. Children get sick all the time and infect each other. Yet even among those workers lucky enough to have paid sick leave, few have flexible sick days that can be used to care for a family member.

"I can't tell you how many parents face this dilemma: Do I send my kid to school with a fever or face economic ruin?" Ness said. She calculated that 100 million workers lack flexible sick days.

Advocates for family-friendly policies point out that the U.S. is the only country out of the top 20 world economic powers with no federally mandated sick days. Put another way, some 140 other countries have them.

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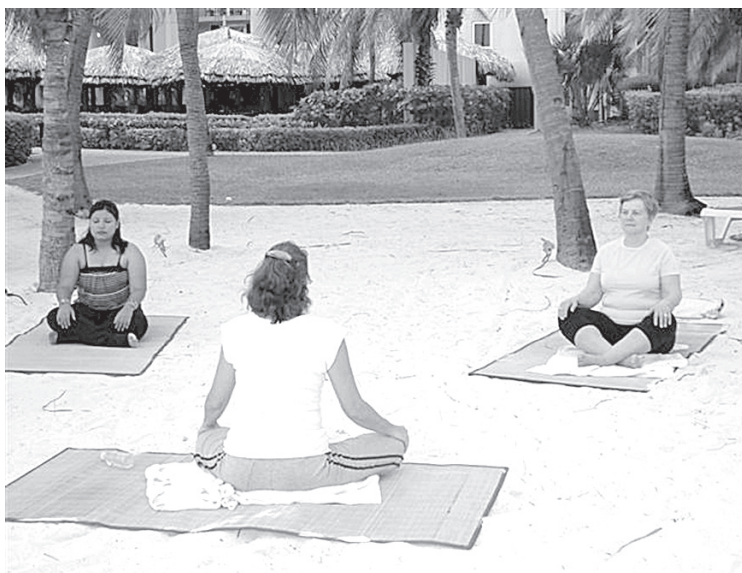


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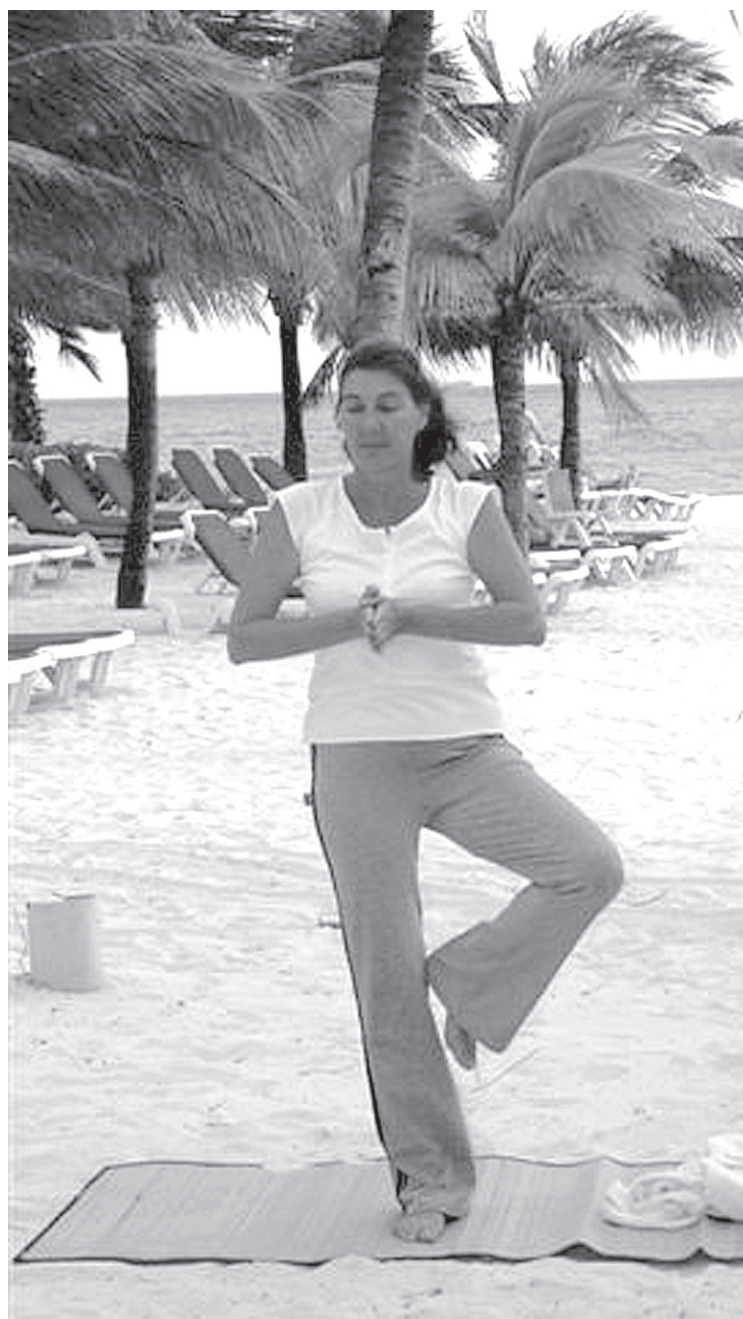
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In this July 9, 2008 file photo, Supreme Court Justice David Souter speaks during a dedication ceremony at the State Supreme Courthouse in Concord, N.H.

Associated Press

Obama's high court choice could be Hispanic, woman

BEN FELLER

Associated Press Writers

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama pledged Friday to name a Supreme Court justice who combines “empathy and understanding” with an impeccable legal background to succeed liberal David Souter, whose abrupt retirement announcement set off speculation the next justice could be a woman, a Hispanic or both.

One probable candidate is both, U.S. Appeals Court Judge Sonia Sotomayor.

The departure of Souter, part of the court's liberal wing, is unlikely to change the ideological balance of a court that became more conservative during George W. Bush's presidency. Obama's first pick probably will be liberal-leaning.

Obama, facing the first Supreme Court nomination by a Democrat in 15 years, pointedly referred to his plan to have “him or her” on the bench in time for the Supreme Court's session that begins the first Monday in October.

“I will seek someone who understands that justice isn't about some abstract legal theory or footnote in a case book. It is also about how our laws affect the daily realities of people's lives,” said the president in a surprise appearance in the White House Press Room moments after speaking with Souter by telephone. Word of the impending retirement had leaked Thursday night.

Obama promised to consult with Republicans and Democrats alike on his choice to replace Souter.

Souter's retirement after almost two decades of unpredictable decisions gives Obama an early chance to place his stamp on the nine-member high court.

He could name a minority: Justice Clarence Thomas is only the second black member after the late Thurgood Marshall, and Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg and retired Sandra Day O'Connor are the only women. There never has been a Latino justice.

The president also is likely to choose a justice who would affirm if not strengthen the court's support for abortion rights, which have been under fire from the right since its inception. As a candidate for the White House, Obama said he would have no litmus test for nominees, but he observed that he thought the landmark 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling that gave women the right to end pregnancies was correctly decided.

Souter, 69, was named to the court in 1990 by President George H.W. Bush, a Republican. On abortion as well as other issues, the New Hampshire native quickly proved himself to be less than the strong conservative the Republicans had expected. In 2000, he was one of four dissenting justices on a ruling that declared President George W. Bush the winner of the disputed national election.

Continued on page 4

Swine flu may be less potent than first feared



Margie Arteaga from Covina, Calif., waits poses Friday, May 1, 2009, under a triage tent in front of Arrowhead Regional Medical Center, set up to treat patients who have flu symptoms in Colton, Calif.

Associated Press

DAVID B. CARUSO

Associated Press Writers

ATLANTA (AP) — The swine flu outbreak that has alarmed the world for a week now appears less ominous, with the virus showing little staying power in the hardest-hit cities and scientists suggesting it lacks the genetic fortitude of past killer bugs.

A flu expert said he sees no reason to believe the virus is particularly lethal. And a U.S. federal scientist said

the germ's genetic makeup lacks some traits seen in the deadly 1918 flu pandemic strain and the more recent killer bird flu.

Still, it was too soon to be certain what the swine flu virus will do. Experts say the only wise course is to prepare for the worst. But in a world that's been rattled by the specter of a global pandemic, glimmers of hope were more than welcome Friday.

Continued on page 3

Man who tried to attack Dutch royal family dies

ARTHUR MAX

Associated Press Writer

AMSTERDAM (AP) — The man who drove his car into a crowd of parade spectators and killed six people died of his injuries Friday, leaving unresolved the mystery of why he tried to attack the Dutch royal family.

The 38-year-old suspect, identified by Dutch media as Karst Tate, had been in critical condition since the attack Thursday on Queen's Day, the Dutch national holiday.

Hours after his death during the night, the Defense Ministry announced that a 55-year-old driver for the military police, Roel Nijenhuis, also died of his injuries. Five bystanders died on Thursday.

Nijenhuis was on duty during Thursday's parade, said a statement from the service commander, Lt. Gen. Dick van Putten. He had driven a military police band to the parade and was watching the festivities when he was hit.

Continued on page 7

Immigrants push for reforms at rallies across U.S.

LAURA WIDES-MUNOZ
Associated Press Writer
MIAMI (AP) — Immigrants and their families gathered at rallies across the country Friday to push for changes to U.S. immigration policy, but as a swine flu outbreak continued to spread, attendance at some events was smaller than organizers had hoped.

The area hardest hit by the swine flu is Mexico, also the native home of many rally participants. There were no immediate reports of canceled events, but Juan Pablo Chavez, a community organizer for the Florida Immigration Coalition, said he and others were monitoring the situation and in close contact with state health care officials.

"If they tell us to halt the events, we will cancel immediately. But for now, we are simply asking people who are sick not to come out," Chavez said.

Organizers are seeking to channel the political muscle Hispanics showed last fall in support of then-presidential candidate Barack Obama. They hope that energy will jumpstart stalled efforts to pass an immigration law that provides a path to citizenship for the estimated 12 million illegal immigrants living in the United States.

They had hoped crowds would equal or exceed those of last year, down from the 2006 turnout, when a stringent immigration bill poised to pass in Congress drew massive



Supporters hold a banner made up of national flags as they gather in Union Park for a rally calling for the legalization of more than 12 million undocumented immigrant workers Friday, May 1, 2009, in Chicago.

Associated Press

protests. Thousands were expected at events in Houston, Los Angeles, Chicago, New York and other cities — mostly in the late afternoon, when workers finished their shifts. But early reports suggested turnout would be far lower than in previous years.

In Chicago, rally-goers chanted and carried signs demanding citizenship opportunities as they gathered at Union Park, and unfurled a banner of flags stitched together from countries across the globe. Organizers said they expected about 15,000 at the event, but the crowd appeared to be much smaller.

Waukegan resident Armando Pena said he was disappointed

that more people didn't turn out and blamed the low numbers on a combination of the flu and tough economic times.

"The economy is so bad they don't want to lose their jobs," said Pena, who organized a contingent of about 50 people. A line of about 225 marchers made their way down the main thoroughfare in New Jersey's largest city Friday, stopping to recite chants and gather for a vigil in front of the federal immigration building in Newark.

The marchers were led by dozens of Latin American immigrant ice cream vendors wheeling pushcarts decorated with bright umbrellas and covered in signs. One read "Say

Reform, Not Raids."

In Miami, activists planned to gather downtown across from the turquoise waters of Biscayne Bay for a rally and march. They also want temporary protection for the state's large community of Haitian immigrants, whose native island has been devastated in recent years by hurricanes and floods.

In New York City, participants were set to gather in Union Square. Immigrant, labor and faith communities gathered under a light drizzle at Madison Square Park.

Activists' hopes have been buoyed with Obama in the White House and a Democratic-controlled Congress, in part because they believe the

Hispanic vote, about two-thirds of which went to Obama, helped flip key battleground states such as Colorado and New Mexico. Many Hispanics strongly back comprehensive immigration reform, and they believe Obama owes them.

The White House announced this week that it would refocus its resources on prosecuting employers who hire illegal immigrants. And a Senate Judiciary subcommittee took up immigration this week for the first time in the new Congress.

But many immigrants are wary. They say the immigrations raids that grew common under the Bush administration have continued since Obama took office.

In Colorado, a march was planned Saturday in Greeley, a rural town 60 miles (97 kilometers) north of Denver, and the site of a 2006 federal raid at a meatpacking plant, in which 261 undocumented workers were detained.

Greeley is also the place where dozens of illegal immigrants were charged with identity theft last year for filing taxes using false or stolen social security numbers. County judges have since ruled tax records are confidential and authorities were wrong to seize them, but the decisions will be appealed.

"Greeley is the microcosm," said Alonzo Barron Ortiz, an organizer with the group Al Frente de la Lucha, which chose Saturday so workers wouldn't have to miss work.

U.S. warns dieters: Stop Hydroxycut use immediately

RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. government health officials warned dieters and body builders Friday to immediately stop using the Canadian-made supplement Hydroxycut, linked to cases of serious liver damage and at least one death.

The Food and Drug Administration said the maker of the dietary supplement has agreed to recall 14 Hydroxycut products. Available in grocery stores and pharmacies, Hydroxycut is advertised as made from natural ingredients. At least 9 million packages were sold last year, the FDA said.

Dr. Linda Katz of the FDA's food and nutrition division said the agency has received 23 reports of liver problems, including the death of a 19-year-old boy. The teenager died in 2007, and the death was reported to the FDA this March.

Other patients experienced symptoms ranging from jaundice, or yellowing of the skin, to liver failure. One received a transplant and another was placed on a list to await a new liver.

There was no immediate comment from the U.S. distributor of the diet pill, Iovate Health Sciences, headquartered near Buffalo, New York. Hydroxycut is used by people trying to shed pounds and by body builders to sharpen their muscles.

Dietary supplements aren't as tightly regulated by the government as medications. Manufacturers don't need to prove to the FDA that their products are safe and effective before they can sell them to consumers. But regulators monitor aftermarket reports for signs of trouble, and in recent years companies have been put under stricter requirements to alert the FDA when they learn of problems.

Katz said it has taken so long to get a handle on the Hydroxycut problem because the cases of liver damage were rare and the FDA has no authority to review supplements before they're marketed. "Part of the problem is that the FDA looks at dietary supplements from a post-market perspective, and an isolated incident is often difficult to follow," she said. The FDA relies on voluntary reports to detect such problems, and many cases are never reported, officials acknowledge.

Health officials said they have been unable to determine which Hydroxycut ingredients are potentially toxic, partially because the formulation of the products has changed several times. A medical journal report last month raised questions about one ingredient, hydroxycitric acid, derived from a tropical fruit. The article said it could potentially damage the liver.

Swine flu

Continued from front page

In New York City, which has the most confirmed swine flu cases in the U.S. with 49, swine flu has not spread far beyond cases linked to one Catholic school. In Mexico, the epicenter of the outbreak, very few relatives of flu victims seem to have caught it.

Officials in Mexico have voiced optimism for two days that the worst may be over. But Dr. Scott F. Dowell of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said it’s hard to know whether the outbreak is easing up in Mexico. “They’re still seeing plenty of cases,” Dowell said. He said outbreaks in any given area might be relatively brief, so that they may seem to be ending in some areas that had a lot of illness a few weeks ago. But cases are occurring elsewhere, and national numbers in Mexico are not abating, he said.

Worldwide, the total confirmed cases neared 600, although that number is also believed to be much larger. Besides the U.S. and Mexico, the virus has been detected in Canada, New Zealand, China, Israel and eight European nations.

Scientists looking closely at the H1N1 virus itself have found some encouraging news, said Nancy Cox, flu chief at the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Its genetic makeup doesn’t show specific traits that showed up in the 1918 pandemic virus, which killed about 40 million to 50 million people worldwide.

“However, we know that there is a great deal that we do not understand about the virulence of the 1918 virus or other influenza viruses” that caused serious illnesses, Cox said. “So we are continuing to learn.”

She told The Associated Press that the swine flu virus also lacked genetic traits associated with the virulence of the bird flu virus, which grabbed headlines a few years ago and has killed 250 people, mostly in Asia.

There were still plenty of signs

Friday of worldwide concern. China decided to suspend flights from Mexico to Shanghai because of a case of swine flu confirmed in a flight from Mexico, China’s state-run Xinhua News Agency reported.

And in Hong Kong, hundreds of hotel guests and workers were quarantined after a tourist from Mexico tested positive for swine flu, Asia’s first confirmed case.

Evoking the 2003 SARS outbreak, workers in protective suits and masks wiped down tables, floors and windows. Guests at the hotel waved to photographers from their windows.

A top Mexican medical officer questioned the World Health Organization’s handling of the early signs of the swine flu scare, suggesting Thursday that a regional arm of the WHO had taken too long to notify WHO headquarters of about an unusually late rash of flu cases in Mexico.

The regional agency, however, provided a timeline to the AP suggesting it was Mexico that failed to respond to its request to alert other nations to the first hints of the outbreak.

The Mexican official, chief epidemiologist Dr. Miguel Angel Lezana, backtracked Friday, telling Radio Formula: “There was no delay by the Mexican authorities, nor was there any by the World Health Organization.”

In Mexico, where swine flu has killed at least 15 people and the confirmed case count has surpassed 300, the health secretary said few of the relatives of 86 suspected swine flu patients had caught the virus. Only four of the 219 relatives surveyed turned up as probable cases.

As recently as Wednesday, Mexican authorities said there were 168 suspected swine flu deaths in the country and almost 2,500 suspected cases. The officials have stopped updating that number and say those totals may have even been inflated.

Mexico shut down all but essential government services and private businesses Friday, the start of a five-day shutdown that includes a holiday weekend. Authorities there will use the break to

determine whether emergency measures can be eased.

In the Mexican capital, there were no reports of deaths overnight — the first time that has happened since the emergency was declared a week ago, said Mayor Marcelo Ebrard.

“This isn’t to say we are lowering our guard or we think we no longer have problems,” Ebrard said. “But we’re moving in the right direction.”

The U.S. case count rose to 155 on Friday, based on federal and state counts, although state laboratory operators believe the number is higher because they are not testing all suspected cases.

President Barack Obama voiced hope Friday that the virus may turn out to be no more harmful than the average seasonal flu.

“It may turn out that H1N1 runs its course like ordinary flus, in which case we will have prepared and we won’t need all these preparations,” Obama said, using the flu’s scientific name.

The president stressed the U.S. government was still taking the virus very seriously, adding that even if this round turns out to be mild, the bug could return in a deadlier form during the next flu season.

New York officials said after a week of monitoring the disease that the city’s outbreak gives little sign of spreading beyond a few pockets or getting more dangerous. Mayor Michael Bloomberg said the outbreak in New York had so far proved to be “a relatively minor annoyance.”

Researchers will get a better idea of how dangerous this virus is over the next week to 10 days, said Peter Palese, a leading flu researcher with Mount Sinai Medical School in New York.

So far in the United States, he said, the virus appears to look and behave like the garden-variety flus that strike every winter. “There is no real reason to believe this is a more serious strain,” he said.

Palese said many adults probably have immune systems primed to handle the virus because it is so similar to another common flu strain.



An ambulance carrying a female passenger from a United Airlines jetliner drives away from the tarmac at Logan international Airport in Boston Friday, May 1, 2009. Flight 903 originating from Munich, Germany to Washington, D.C. had been diverted to Boston because the passenger complained of “flu-like symptoms” according to airport spokesman Phil Orlandella.

Associated Press

As for why the illness has predominantly affected children and teenagers in New York, Palese said older people probably have more antibodies from exposure to similar types of flu that help them fight off infection.

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	matinee:		late show: 11:40	

PG-13	OBSESSED			
	daily: 5:05	7:25	9:45	
	matinee: 12:25	2:45	late show: 12:00	

PG-13	THE SOLOIST			NEW
	daily: 5:00	7:20	9:40	
	matinee: 12:15	2:40	late show: 11:55	

PG	HANNAH MONTANA			NEW
	daily: 5:35			
	matinee: 1:00	3:20	late show:	

PG-13	FAST & FURIOUS			
	daily: 7:50	10:00		
	matinee:		late show: 12:15	

PG	RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN			NEW
	daily: 5:50	8:00	10:10	
	matinee: 1:20	3:35	late show: 12:20	

PG-13	X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE			NEW
	daily: 5:15	7:30	9:50	
	matinee: 12:30	2:55	late show: 12:10	

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PG-13	OBSESSED			
	daily: 5:05	7:20	9:50	
	matinee: 12:25	2:45	late show: 12:05	

PG-13	THE SOLOIST			NEW
	daily: 5:10	7:25	9:40	
	matinee: 12:40	2:55	late show: 11:55	

PG	HANNAH MONTANA			NEW
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	matinee: 1:10	3:25	late show:	

PG-13	FAST & FURIOUS			
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	matinee:		late show: 12:10	

PG	RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN			NEW
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	matinee: 12:50	3:10	late show: 11:50	

PG	MONSTERS VS ALIENS			
	daily: 5:40	7:50	9:55	
	matinee: 1:20	3:30	late show: 12:00	

PG-13	X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE			NEW
	daily: 5:00	7:20	9:40	
	matinee: 12:20	2:45	late show: 12:05	

Matinee: thu - sun | Late show: fri & sat

Justice souter

Continued from front page

Democrats, who control 59 seats in the Senate, will be in a strong position when Obama's nominee arrives for confirmation proceedings.

Officials disclosed that even before he took office, Obama, a former constitutional law professor, offered guidance to transition aides assigned to the judicial selection process — and personally offered names of people whom he would consider seriously for the high court.

Some of the names that have been circulating outside the White House include recently confirmed Solicitor General Elena Kagan; Sotomayor and other U.S. Appeals Court Judges Kim McLane Wardlaw, Sandra Lea Lynch and Diane Pamela Wood; and Leah Ward Sears, chief justice of the Georgia Supreme Court.

Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick, Harvard Law professor Cass Sunstein and U.S. District Judge Ruben Castillo of Chicago also have been mentioned.

While Obama ticked off many criteria, spokesman Robert Gibbs emphasized only one in a later briefing: a broad background in life outside campus classrooms and judges' chambers.

The Supreme Court has nine judges whose terms can end only in death, resignation or impeachment. None has been removed by impeachment.

Sen. Patrick Leahy of Vermont, who will preside over confirmation hearings as chairman of the Judiciary Committee, said he hoped Obama would consult with lawmakers in both parties, then issued something of a gentle challenge to Republicans. "In exercising their important roles in the confirmation of the next Supreme Court justice, I hope that all senators will take this opportunity to unify around the shared constitutional values that will define Justice Souter's legacy on the court," he said.

Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell, in a written statement of his own, said, "I trust the president will choose a nominee for the upcoming vacancy based on their experience and evenhanded

reading of the law, and not their partisan leanings or ability to pass litmus tests."

Souter, who is expected to return to his native New Hampshire, is the youngest of three members of the court who have figured in retirement speculation in recent years. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg is 76 and recently underwent cancer surgery. Justice John Paul Stevens is 89, the oldest member of the court.

One of the ironies confronting Obama is that even replacing all three would not allow him fundamentally to alter the court's makeup on key cases in which there often are four judges predictably on one side, four on the other, and Justice Anthony Kennedy in the middle, in effect the deciding vote.



President Barack Obama, in an unexpected visit to the White House pressroom Friday, May 1, 2009, tells reporters that he just got off the phone with Supreme Court Justice David Souter and they talked about Souter's retirement.
Associated Press

Congress to stop using coal in power plant

By JIM ABRAMS

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The 99-year-old Capitol Power Plant, which provides steam for heat and hot water in congressional buildings, is ending its distinction of being the only coal-burning facility in the District of Columbia. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., said Friday that the switch to natural gas as the sole fuel source used at the plant was part of their efforts to reduce

the carbon pollution impact of Congress on the nation's capital.

"The Congress of the United States should not only be a model for the nation, but also a good neighbor," Pelosi said.

The two Democratic leaders have for the past several years initiated steps to make the Capitol grounds more environmentally friendly. But moves to change light bulbs, use less paper and buy fuel-efficient vehicles have in some respects been

overshadowed by the smoke that continues to rise from the power plant about four blocks south of the Capitol.

The D.C. government has complained that the plant worsens air quality and has affected the respiratory health of residents and workers in the area, particularly children.

The plant last year operated on about 65 percent natural gas and 35 percent coal. Pelosi's office said the plant has not burned coal since March and would continue

to go without coal barring problems.

Acting Architect of the Capitol Stephen Ayers cautioned in a letter to Pelosi that work still needed to be done to upgrade the natural gas pipelines. He said coal might still have to be used as a backup in circumstances where heating needs exceed capacity of the natural gas pipelines, when abnormally cold conditions increase demand or when there are equipment outages.

The Capitol complex would not totally end its dependence on coal. Electricity is supplied by a local utility company that uses coal as a power source.

Ending the use of coal at the power plant has met some resistance from coal state lawmakers, who have said it sends the wrong message about the possibilities of clean coal.

But Hill Residents for Steam Plant Conversion, a neighborhood group, has urged Pelosi and Reid to move quickly to stop using coal at the plant, saying it was a major source of sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide and particulate air pollution.

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Hotmail, simple codes said used in attack planning

PAMELA HESS

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — In the days following the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, alleged al-Qaida operations mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed intended to use his free Hotmail account to direct a U.S.-based operative to carry out an attack, according to a guilty plea agreement filed by Ali Saleh Kahlah al-Marri in federal court.

The document shows how al-Qaida, at least in 2001, embraced prosaic technologies like pre-paid calling cards, public phones, computer search engines and simplistic codes to communicate, plan and carry out its operations.

Al-Marri also surfed the Internet to research cyanide gas, using software to cover his tracks, according to the document filed Thursday in federal court in Peoria, Illinois. He marked the locations of dams, waterways and tunnels in the United States in an almanac. The government claims this reflects intelligence that al-Qaida was planning to use cyanide gas to attack those sites.

As a result of his guilty plea, al-Marri could be sentenced up to a maximum 15-year term in federal prison.

In a stipulation of facts filed as part of the plea agreement, al-Marri admitted that he trained in al-Qaida camps and

stayed in terrorist safe houses in Pakistan between 1998 and 2001. There, he learned how to handle weapons and how to communicate by phone and e-mail using a code.

After arriving in the U.S. on Sept. 10, 2001 — a day before al-Qaida's long-plotted terror strikes in New York and Washington — Al-Marri stored phone numbers of al-Qaida associates in a personal electronic device.

He used a "10-code" to protect the numbers — subtracting the actual digits in the phone numbers from 10 to arrive at a coded number, according to a person close to the investigation.

In a 10-code, eight becomes a two, for example. Other al-Qaida members used the same code, according to the plea agreement.

Al-Marri sent e-mails to Khalid Sheikh Mohammed's hotmail account — HOR70@hotmail.com — addressed to "Muk" and signed "Abdo." The details of that code were included in an address book found in an al-Qaida safehouse in Pakistan. An attempt by The Associated Press to reach that address did not indicate the account had been closed, but it went unanswered.

Al-Marri initially tried to use a Yahooe-mail account to contact Mohammed, but it failed to go through. So he switched to Hotmail as well. When al-

Marri arrived in the United States, he created five new e-mail accounts to communicate with Mohammed, using the 10-code to send him his cell phone number in Peoria.

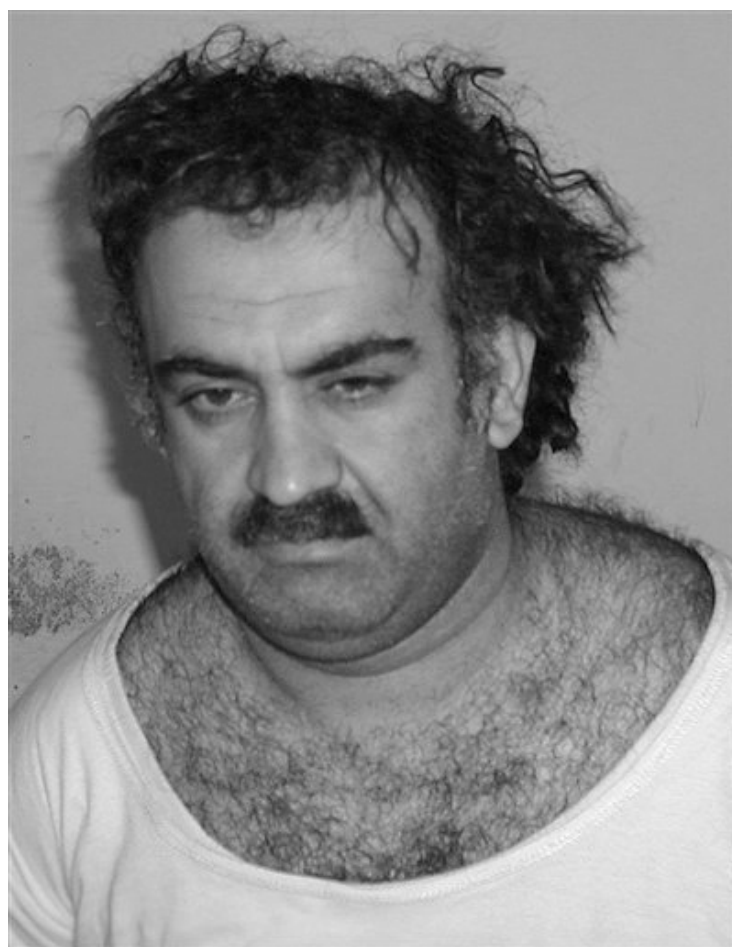
From September to November, al-Marri tried and failed to contact members of al-Qaida in Pakistan using prepaid calling cards and public phones, sometimes traveling 160 miles (257 kilometers) to use a different phone.

Al-Marri was arrested in December 2001, three months after entering the U.S. on a student visa. He was shortly thereafter declared an "enemy combatant" and taken into military custody.

The "enemy combatant" designation was dropped when he was indicted by a federal grand jury in Illinois.

Suspected as an al-Qaida sleeper agent, he was held without charge for more than five years. His attorneys say he was tortured while in military custody. There is no indication in the plea agreement that al-Marri ever made contact with other alleged al-Qaida agents inside the United States.

Al-Marri admitted that before entering the U.S., he met and had regular contact with Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and with Mustafa Ahmad al-Hawsawi, who allegedly helped the Sept. 11 hijackers with money and Western-style clothing.



This March 1, 2003 file picture shows Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, shortly after his capture during a raid in Pakistan. In the days following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, alleged al-Qaida operations mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed intended to use his free Hotmail account to direct a U.S.-based operative to carry out an attack, according to a guilty plea agreement filed on Thursday, April 30, 2009 by Ali Saleh Kahlah al-Marri in federal court. Associated Press

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Europeans rally on May Day amid economic worries

JENNY BARCHFIELD

Associated Press Writer

PARIS (AP) — Hundreds of thousands of European workers feeling the pinch of the economic crisis rallied at May Day protests from Moscow to Berlin to Istanbul. Violence and clashes between police and angry protesters disrupted some events Friday, including in Greece, Germany and Turkey. But overall participation fell short of what many countries' unions had hoped for on May Day, a public holiday in many countries that has long celebrated the social and economic achievements of labor movements.

Many of the protesters complained about rising unemployment and lost



People hold banners during the traditional May Day march in Paris, Friday May 1, 2009. French unions and workers marched nationwide on Friday, hoping to build on momentum from recent strikes and protests against French president Nicolas Sarkozy's handling of the economic downturn.
Associated Press

right demonstrators pitched fireworks and stones at pedestrians and police. In the southern city of Ulm, police turned water cannons on thousands who turned out to demonstrate against a smaller gathering of neo-Nazis.

In neighboring Austria, officials said five people were arrested and more than 20 injured in clashes between protesters and police at a rally in the northern city of Linz, organized by the local branch of the Communist Party.

Greek officers used flash grenades to disperse violent protesters in Athens after attacks on banks and traffic cameras. No arrests or injuries were reported, but transport strikes disrupted bus, train and ferry services as well as flights by Greek carrier Olympic Airlines.

It was the first May Day since the advent of the global financial crisis, and Russia police were out in force as Communists and liberals gathered to criticize the government. Moscow police said four leftists were detained after trying to light flares near the Kremlin. Dozens were reportedly detained in St. Petersburg.

In Moscow, several thousand Communist supporters gathered near a statue of Karl Marx and called for the government to resign, accusing it of ignoring the needs of everyday Russians and mismanaging the economy.

Chess great and liberal Kremlin foe Garry Kasparov told a separate rally of 200 that Russians must believe in their ability to challenge what he called "the criminal, corrupt regime."

"The authorities are trying to hammer into our heads a single idea: that nothing depends upon us," Kasparov said. "But we can change things."

The largest rallies were organized, however, by the dominant United Russia party and trade unions, and demonstrators expressed concern about the economy, but refrained from criticizing the government.

UN warns Sudan peace accord at 'critical stage'

By EDITH M. LEDERER

Associated Press Writer

UNITED NATIONS — The Security Council extended the 13,500-strong U.N. peacekeeping mission in southern Sudan for a year on Thursday, deploring the persistent violence in the region and warning that the 2005 peace agreement that ended two decades of fighting between the north and south is at "a critical stage."

The resolution adopted unanimously by the U.N.'s most powerful body stresses the importance of "full and expeditious implementation" of the peace deal, noting that key issues are still unresolved including the north-south boundary and the future of oil-rich Abyei, just north of the disputed border.

"The Comprehensive Peace Agreement ended one of Africa's longest and bloodiest civil wars and remains the bedrock for peace and security in Sudan," Britain's U.N. Ambassador John Sawers told the council.

The civil war between ethnic African southerners and Sudan's Arab-dominated government in the north was separate from the ongoing conflict in Sudan's western Darfur region, now in its sixth year. It is also separate from an intermittent 10-year war between the government and rebels from the mountains of eastern Sudan that ended with a peace agreement in 2006.

The council extended the U.N. peacekeeping mission, which includes 10,000 military personnel and police, until April 30, 2010.

Sawers said the "significant tests" that lie ahead for the north and the south include holding transparent parliamentary and presidential elections in February 2010, disarming and rehabilitating former combatants, developing effective security on the border areas, releasing the results of the national census, and conducting a referendum in January 2011 on whether South Sudan should become independent.

In southern Sudan, dozens of people have been killed in recent tribal clashes in Jonglei State, which the U.N. mission said went beyond the cattle raids typical of that region and were now beginning to target civilians.

benefits, but few specifics appeared to emerge from the demonstrations about what governments should be doing to fight the global crisis.

In Paris, fractious French labor unions came together for the first time in decades to stage a joint march that ended at the Place de la Bastille. Up to 300 smaller demonstrations were planned across France, and police said turnout in Strasbourg, Nancy, Metz and Besancon was many times higher than last year's May Day events.

"There are five to six times more protesters than on a normal May Day," said Francois Chereque, head of the CFDT union.

Police put nationwide turnout at 465,000, while unions said some 1.2 million people took to the streets on Friday. Last year, May Day marches across France drew an estimated 100,000-200,000 people.

The French rallies followed months of protests and a spate of "boss-nappings"—in which workers angry over job cuts held key managers hostage in an attempt to win concessions. But all of Friday's rallies were smaller than March 16 protests, when more than 1 million people across France demanded more government protections against the financial downturn.

"Exasperation is rising. Why should the people pay for

a crisis for which they are absolutely not responsible?" said New Anticapitalist Party spokesman Francis Viguie at a march in the southern city of Montpellier.

In Italy, union leaders shifted May Day rallies from major cities to the earthquake-stricken town of L'Aquila as a sign of solidarity with thousands who lost their jobs when businesses crumbled in last month's quake.

Spain — which has gone from being one of Europe's strongest economies to having its highest unemployment rate — saw tens of thousands of people demonstrate. Still, participation failed to reach the massive levels union leaders called for.

In Turkey, which only last week declared the international labor day a public holiday, unionists rallied at a previously banned site where dozens died during a May Day demonstration three decades ago. But the event was marred by nearby fighting between riot police and leftists. At least 26 people were detained, the Anatolia news agency reported.

A protest in the German capital turned violent as leftists hurled bottles and burning objects at police. A group of 400 blocked a streetcar line by sitting on the tracks. Police said 28 were detained in Berlin, and another 200 in the western city of Dortmund, where far-

Dutch Royal

Continued from front page

Ten other people were hurt when the man rammed his small black car through police barricades toward an open-topped bus carrying Queen Beatrix and several other members of the royal family. He told one of the first police officers to rush to his car that the attack was aimed at the royal family, prosecutor Ludo Goossens said Thursday. But the motive was unclear.

"It is very difficult now that we no longer have the suspect to reconstruct what was behind this," said Fred de Graaf, they mayor of Apeldoorn where the incident occurred.

"An element of uncertainty will remain because you can no longer question the suspect. So the last piece of the puzzle will remain in question," he told reporters Friday.

Dutch media, citing neighbors, said Tates recently was fired from his job as a security guard and was to be evicted from his home in the small eastern town of Huissen because he could no longer afford the rent. Police said he had no history of mental illness or police record.

The neighbors described him as friendly, but a man who kept to himself, the NRC Handelsblad reported.

Prosecutors said the suspect's death ended the criminal investigation against him, but that they would continue to investigate whether he acted alone. Prosecutors have not released his name, in line with Dutch privacy laws. "So far there are no indications" anybody else was involved, prosecutors said in a statement. Police who searched the man's house Thursday "found no weapons, explosives or indications of other suspects," prosecutors said. No links with terrorism or ideological groups were immediately uncovered, they said. The attack prompted officials to review security arrangements for the royal family's public appearances, beginning with Memorial Day next Monday commemorating Dutch victims of World War II, followed Tuesday by Liberation Day festivities. The state broadcaster NOS said the 71-year-old monarch would attend at least the main memorial ceremony as planned.

The queen and her son Crown

Prince Willem-Alexander seldom hesitate to approach the crowds on holidays, especially on Queen's Day, when the members of the House of Orange are the focus of attention. Now, the attack raised questions about "whether Queen's Day can ever again be celebrated in the way we Dutch are accustomed to — with as its most important feature the closeness of the queen, her family and the Dutch public," said De Volkskrant daily.

De Graaf defended security during Thursday's parade. "You don't assume somebody will drive straight through a crowd, straight through two barriers to do something like this. You don't plan based on that kind of scenario," he said. On Friday, people laid bouquets of flowers at the



Crown Prince Willem Alexander, Princess Maxima and Dutch Queen Beatrix, from left, share a laugh before a car ploughed into spectators during festivities marking Queen's Day in Apeldoorn, Netherlands, Thursday, April 30, 2009.

Associated Press

scene of the attack, lit candles in Apeldoorn's church and signed a condolence register at Apeldoorn city hall for the victims.

The failed attack on the

immensely popular royal family played out live on nationwide television during coverage of the queen's bus trip to her palace Het Loo in the eastern city of Apeldoorn.



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Police break up anti-Chavez march with tear gas

FABIOLA SANCHEZ

Associated Press Writers
CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— Hundreds of Venezuelan police and National Guard troops broke up a protest march Friday with volleys of tear gas and blasts from water cannons that scattered a crowd of President Hugo Chavez's opponents.

Officials said about 20 people were treated for minor injuries, mostly for inhaling gas, while one police officer and a demonstrator suffered small cuts when they were hit by hurled objects. Some marchers were carried away after being overcome by tear gas.

People in surrounding buildings threw glass bottles



A demonstrator run away from tear gas canisters fired by riot police officers during a labor day demonstration called by the opposition in Caracas, Friday, May 1, 2009. Hundreds of Venezuelan police and National Guard troops broke up an opposition march Friday with volleys of tear gas and water cannon blasts.

Associated Press

Ramirez defended the actions of security forces, saying authorities broke up the demonstration to maintain order. Police Chief Carlos Meza accused the opposition marchers of having a "violent plan."

Officials had denied protesters permission to march all the way to the National Assembly, and when they tried to pass a barricade erected by police, they were drenched with tear gas.

"They suffocated me with tear gas," said Sara Figueroa, a 56-year-old demonstrator who breathed oxygen through a mask at a tent set up by firefighters to treat the injured. Starting to cry, she said she felt "rage, impotence, like wanting to go kill those wretches."

In addition to supporting the mayor, marchers also expressed concern about other opposition leaders who have been sidelined by investigations into corruption allegations. Many carried signs picturing opposition leader Manuel Rosales, who faces a corruption charge in Venezuela but received political asylum in Peru earlier this week.

Elsewhere, a red-clad crowd of Chavez supporters paraded down a main avenue.

"I'm marching to support the president because I like my government," said Alfredo Lopez, a 72-year-old retiree. "I'm here to defend it."



A demonstrator takes part in a protest in Port-au-Prince, Friday, May 1, 2009. Haitian police used tear gas to break up a protest near the national palace where demonstrators were calling for a higher minimum wage.

Associated Press

Haiti police break up protest with tear gas

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Haitian police used tear gas to break up a protest near the national palace where demonstrators were calling for a higher minimum wage. Riot police also used their batons and shields Friday to block the group of about 150 protesters from reaching the palace.

The protesters say they are an "alternative May 1" movement and called for raising the minimum wage from about \$1.80 a day to \$10 a day. Eighty percent of the Caribbean nation's people live on less than \$2 a day and unemployment is rampant.

The group also called for the departure of a 9,000-member U.N. peacekeeping force they denounced as occupiers.

Hundreds of farmers participated in a nearby government-sponsored "agriculture day" rally and did not join the protest.

at officers, and police responded throwing tear gas canisters at the buildings.

Some people stood in their windows and beat on pots and pans to protest the crackdown on the protesters. Others shouted "cowards" and "murderers" at the police.

Police broke up the demonstration as thousands of opponents and supporters of Chavez held separate May Day marches, bringing together labor groups and partisan demonstrators.

Officers in anti-riot gear pursued Chavez foes into side streets, including one group of several dozen who sat down in protest. Caracas Mayor Antonio Ledezma, a leading Chavez opponent, rose and raised a copy of the constitution above his head before police dispersed them by spraying water and tear gas.

"We've come here to defend the constitution," Ledezma told the crowd earlier.

The demonstrators had hoped to march to the National Assembly to protest new measures that

have eroded the opposition mayor's power by stripping him of most of his budget and subordinating him to a city official appointed by Chavez.

Ledezma criticized the government for deploying hundreds of police officers and National Guard troops across the capital to guard against the march.

"The government wants to snatch away democracy with this escalation of authoritarianism," said Ledezma, who accused the president of violating the constitution by naming Jacqueline Faria, a vice president of his ruling party, above him to head the capital.

Chavez blamed the violence on the protesters and said authorities were obliged to disperse them with "one or two little cans of tear gas."

"We won't permit this violence," he told a large crowd of supporters. "That wasn't a march of workers, but a march of conspirators."

National Guard Gen. Alirio



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Fiji formally ousted from Pacific democracy bloc

ROD MCGUIR

Associated Press Writer

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — South Pacific nations announced Saturday that military-ruled Fiji has been suspended from the 16-nation bloc for its rejection of democracy, freedom and human rights.

“A regime which displays such a total disregard for basic human rights, democracy and freedom has no place in the Pacific Islands Forum,” said its chairman, Toke Talagi.

Fiji’s rejection of fundamental principles like “the full observance of democratic values” and the defense and promotion of human rights had given the Forum no alternative, he said in a statement.

Talagi said he had “considerable sorrow and disappointment” in confirming Fiji’s immediate

suspension from “full participation” — but the diplomatic and economic bloc had stopped short of expulsion of the military regime, said Talagi, who is also premier of the South Pacific micro state of Niue.

The suspension bars Fiji’s leader, ministers and officials from taking part in any Forum meetings or events, and cuts Fiji out of development funding until a democratic government is restored, he noted.

On Friday, Fiji military ruler, Commodore Frank Bainimarama, continued to defy international pressure to announce elections, confirming that he would not hold them for at least five years.

That set the stage for his country’s ouster from the Forum, which had given Fiji until Friday to announce elections for 2009

or be suspended from the group. “I think we made it quite clear that is not going to happen,” the military chief told Australia’s Sky News television in an interview broadcast Friday. “There will be no elections until September 2014.”

Bainimarama ousted the ethnic Fijian-dominated government in a 2006 coup and installed himself as prime minister. He has vowed to rewrite the constitution and electoral laws to remove what he says is discrimination against the country’s large ethnic Indian minority before holding elections. Critics say he shows little sign of being willing to give up power.

“You’ve got a dictator up there now who doesn’t want to listen to anybody else other than himself,” New Zealand Prime



In this Dec. 14, 2006, file photo, Fiji’s military commander Frank Bainimarama stands outside the officer’s mess at the Queen Elizabeth Barracks in the capitol Suva. Fiji’s second-highest court declared the military government illegal Thursday and said the president should immediately appoint an interim leader to oversee a return to democracy in the coup-plagued South Pacific nation. Associated Press

3 Americans, 2 NATO troops killed in Afghanistan

HEIDI VOGT

Associated Press Writers

KABUL (AP) — Three Americans and two other international troops were killed Friday in an attack in eastern Afghanistan, officials said. Insurgents attacked Afghan and international forces Friday with rocket-propelled grenades and guns, NATO forces said in a statement. The troops called in air support, forcing the militants to withdraw. They are being pursued, the statement said. Col. Greg Julian, a spokesman for U.S. Forces in Afghanistan, confirmed that three of the dead service members were Americans. The nationalities of the other two were not immediately known because NATO typically waits for countries to release such information.

The Taliban have vowed to increase ambushes and other attacks as an additional 21,000 U.S. troops flood into Afghanistan this summer in an attempt to stem the group’s resurgence and bolster security for August presidential elections.

In a sign that electioneering itself is likely to be chaotic, Afghanistan’s top vice president broke away from the president to join a

competing ticket, a spokesman for the ticket said Friday.

Former warlord Gul Agha Sherzai has snagged First Vice President Ahmad Zia Masood as his top deputy in his run against President Hamid Karzai, said Gul Khalid Pushtoon, a lawmaker serving as spokesman for Sherzai.

Sherzai, now governor of eastern Nangarhar province, plans to file official papers on Saturday, Pushtoon said.

Sherzai, who met with President Barack Obama when he visited Afghanistan in July, has a mixed reputation. He helped the U.S. oust the Taliban from southern Kandahar province in the first push against the militants, but he has also been accused of heavy-handed rule and corruption in the aftermath.

A government spokesman, Waheed Omar, said he had not yet been informed of Masood’s decision but that the government would not stand in his way.

“Masood is still the vice president of Afghanistan, but if he has decided that joining a different team will help, I don’t think the president will have a problem because that is his constitutional right.”

Minister John Key told Radio Dunedin on Friday, ramping up his rhetoric against the regime. “My view is that they will be automatically suspended from the forum and I think you may see similar reaction from other bodies like the Commonwealth,” he added, referring to a group of 53 countries that are mostly former British colonies.

Australian Foreign Minister Stephen Smith agreed, saying Bainimarama’s lack of action meant the country’s suspension would take effect Saturday. “Fiji has shown no intention to return to democracy and on the contrary has torn up its constitution,” Smith said.

Fiji President Ratu Josefa Iloilo announced in early April that elections would be delayed until 2014. He also suspended the national constitution and fired judges who had declared the military government illegal. Emergency laws were also imposed on the media to curb expressions of dissent.

Bainimarama said Friday that the censorship laws would be extended when they expire later

this month.

“We want this calm to continue for a while,” he said. “It’s irresponsible reporting that undermines” calm.

Bainimarama said within two weeks he would announce a five-year timetable for reforms leading to the 2014 elections.

“We have to get rid of racism in the country in the next five years,” he said, referring to long-standing conflicts between indigenous Fijians and ethnic Indians. Bainimarama is an indigenous Fijian.

He also called for Australia and New Zealand to be expelled from the Pacific Islands Forum, saying they were putting undue “pressure on the Pacific Islands and that’s not how we operate.” New Zealand Foreign Minister McCully said Thursday that foreign aid to the impoverished country had already slowed, and the European Union had frozen hundreds of millions of dollars in funding to help restructure Fiji’s sugar industry, a key export income earner for the severely weakened economy.

SPORTS

Aruba TODAY

Tiger falls out of first with a shaky finish

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (AP) — Tiger Woods bogeyed two of the last three holes to concede the lead in the Quail Hollow Championship to Bubba Watson and Retief Goosen after two rounds on Friday.

Watson overpowered Quail Hollow, tying a course record with a 30 on the front nine, and shooting 7-under 65. Goosen, a two-time U.S. Open champion who thrives on fast greens, had another 68 to join Watson atop the leaderboard with an 8-under 136.

Woods seized control with a 55-foot birdie putt on the ninth hole and had a two-shot lead for most of the back nine until a sloppy finish for a 72 that left him one shot behind. Still, it was shaping up for an



Bubba Watson lines up a putt on the ninth hole during the second round of the Quail Hollow Championship golf tournament at the Quail Hollow Club in Charlotte, N.C., Friday, May 1, 2009. Watson shot a 7-under 65 on Friday.

Associated Press

entertaining weekend packed with star power.

Ten players were separated by two shots going into the weekend on a course that proved it doesn't need rough to be frightening, not with firm, slick greens that made it difficult to get close to the hole.

Former Masters champion Zach Johnson, one of eight players who had at least a share of the lead at one point, was the only player to reach 10-under par until he bogeyed the last three holes for a 67 and joined the group at 7-under 137 that included Woods, Jim Furyk (66) and George McNeill (68).

Another shot back was Phil Mickelson, whose 71 was anything but routine.

Continued on page 12

NHL Playoffs

Salo's late goal lifts Canucks in Game 1



Vancouver Canucks Sami Salo celebrates his goal as he skates past the Chicago Blackhawks bench during the third period in Game 1 of the Western Conference semi-final NHL hockey game at GM Place in Vancouver, British Columbia on Thursday, April 30, 2009. Canucks beat the Blackhawks 5-3.

Associated Press

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — Sami Salo scored with 1:13 left as the Vancouver Canucks beat the Chicago Blackhawks 5-3 on Thursday in the NHL semifinals series opener after blowing a three-goal lead in the third period.

After Nikolai Khabibulin made a sliding save on Steve Bernier's one-timer, the

trailing Salo was all alone to tap in the rebound.

Patrick Kane scored twice for Chicago, and David Bolland tied it with 5:29 left.

Ryan Johnson scored into an empty net with 15.5 seconds left to wrap up the victory. Pavol Demitra scored on a power play, and Henrik Sedin and Ryan Kesler added even-strength goals for Vancouver.

Canucks goalie Roberto Luongo made 28 saves.

Game 2 of the Western Conference semifinal series is Saturday in Vancouver.

After Chicago rallied twice from three-goal deficits in its six-game victory over Calgary, Kane got the Blackhawks' rally started 1:01 into the third period, pouncing on a loose puck in the slot off a rush and roofing a quick shot over Luongo's shoulder. Kane scored on a power-play rebound, and Bolland tied it on another rebound.

Khabibulin made 22 saves, including three great ones to keep it close early in the third period, but still hasn't beaten the Canucks since Jan. 26, 1998, with Phoenix.

Kyle Wellwood added two assists and drew 10 minutes in penalties for the Canucks, but didn't get credit for his best play, a long pass to start the late 3-on-1 rush that led to the winning goal.

Armstrong goes with the flow in Silver City

TIM KORTE

AP Sports Writer

SILVER CITY, New Mexico (AP) — Lance Armstrong draws a crowd anywhere he goes, and Tour of the Gila organizers couldn't be happier about it.

Returning from a broken collarbone, Armstrong has provided a major publicity boost for the New Mexico race, now in its 23rd year. Armstrong, meanwhile, has enjoyed the event's laid-back, low-key feel.

"It's good for the first race back," he said. "To not have to handle the logistics and things like that, it makes it easier. The early stages



Cyclist Lance Armstrong heads for the finish of stage 3 of the Tour of the Gila, a 16-mile individual time trial near Tyrone, N.M., Friday, May 1, 2009. The race is Armstrong's first since breaking his collarbone in a race in Spain.

Associated Press

make for long days. You get back home just past noon. Then you almost sit around and wonder what to do."

Armstrong placed third on Friday in the Gila's third stage, a time trial that started and finished in the mining village of Tyrone. He covered the hilly 16-mile (26-kilometer) course in 34 minutes, 22 seconds.

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A big underdog last time, Pacquiao is now favored

TIM DAHLBERG

AP Boxing Writer

LAS VEGAS (AP) — The last time Manny Pacquiao displayed his many talents he stopped Oscar De La Hoya in a fight no one thought he could win. The beating he administered not only sent De La Hoya into retirement, but cemented Pacquiao's status as boxing's newest star. Pacquiao returns to the ring on Saturday much the same fighter he was five months ago, taking on Ricky Hatton in a lucrative 140-pound fight matching two guys who love to brawl. The big difference now, though, is that everybody expects him to win.

One big fight can create a lot of expectation, and the biggest task for Pacquiao may be managing them in the ring.

His trainer isn't worried. Pacquiao, says Freddie Roach, is more focused than ever.

"The win over Oscar just gave him more confidence," Roach said. "So many people said he couldn't do it but he did. Oscar could still beat a lot of guys, but he didn't win a second of that fight."

Once again, Pacquiao will be facing a fighter who is bigger than him as he fights for only the third time above 130 pounds. Pacquiao weighed in at 138 pounds on Friday while Hatton was at the class limit of 140 pounds.

But oddsmakers who saw

him dismantle an even bigger De La Hoya make him a 2-1 favorite to beat the once-beaten Hatton and win a title in his sixth weight class since turning pro. Coming off a rugged training camp that Pacquiao believes was his best ever, he's not about to argue the point.

"I believe that I am improving and everybody knows and can see that by my last few performances," Pacquiao said.

Those last few performances have made Pacquiao (48-3-2, 36 knockouts) a fighter in demand in a sport desperate for stars. He's such a hero in the Philippines that he talks about one day running for president there, but the win over De La Hoya in particular catapulted Pacquiao into rarified status in the sport.

He'll make \$12 million to square off for the minor IBO junior welterweight title against Hatton, who will earn \$8 million in a fight that sold out the MGM Grand hotel's arena and will be televised on pay-per-view.

"I do feel different now than before I fought Oscar," Pacquiao said. "There is a big difference in my popularity now and I think that was because Oscar was popular too."

Hatton, who will be backed by his usual throng of singing and chanting English fans, is coming off a knockout win



Manny Pacquiao, left, of the Philippines and British boxer Ricky Hatton face off at the weigh-in for their junior welterweight boxing match Friday, May 1, 2009, in Las Vegas. The two will fight in a junior welterweight boxing match in Las Vegas on Saturday, May 2.

Associated Press

over Paulie Malignaggi that seemed to help him regain any confidence lost in the only loss of his career, a 10th-round stoppage in December 2007 at the hands of Floyd Mayweather Jr.

Still, he knows there are a lot of people in boxing that look at him as little more than a tough guy brawler who likes to party a bit too much between fights.

"People say (I'm) over-hyped, overprotected, a fat, beer-drinking Englishman," Hatton said at the final prefight press conference. "Well, I'm going to shock the world again."

Though both fighters love to mix it up, they go about it in different ways. Hatton (45-1, 32 knockouts) tends to throw wide punches while moving constantly forward and trying to smother his opponent, while Pacquiao fights down the middle with hands held high from his southpaw stance. Both say they plan to box more in this bout, but both have been known to simply start trading punches when they get hit.

"I don't see it being a tickling contest," Hatton said. "I see it being an absolute war because we're both fighters

by nature."

Pacquiao is only 30, but he has been fighting professionally since making his debut at 106 pounds in the Philippines in 1995, and he has engaged in slugfests over the years.

Roach said he would like to see him fight just two more times, then move on to other things.

"He wants to get into politics, but I told him you can't do both," Roach said. "Maybe if he could get Floyd out of retirement that would be it. No sense in going any further after that."

BCS warns playoff system threat to bowl games



Atlantic Coast Conference Commissioner and Bowl Championship Series coordinator John Swofford, left, testifies before the House Commerce, Trade, and Consumer Protection Subcommittee hearing on the football Bowl Championship Series on Capitol Hill in Washington, Friday, May 1, 2009. Also testifying on the panel are, from left, West Mountain Conference Commissioner Craig Thompson, President and CEO of Valero Alamo Bowl Derrick Fox and Boise State Athletic Director Gene Bleymaier.
Associated Press

By FREDERIC J. FROMMER
Associated Press Writer
WASHINGTON — Tackling an issue sure to rouse sports fans, lawmakers pressed college football officials Friday on switching the Bowl Championship Series to a playoff, with one Texas Republican calling the current system as unworkable as communism and joking it should be labeled “BS,” not “BCS.”
John Swofford, the coordinator of the BCS, rejected the idea of switching to a playoff, arguing it would threaten the existence of celebrated bowl games. Sponsorships and TV revenue that now go to bowl games would instead be spent on playoff games, “meaning that it will be very difficult for any bowl, including the current BCS bowls, which are among the oldest and most established in the game’s history,

to survive,” Swofford said.
Rep. Joe Barton of Texas, who has introduced legislation that would prevent the NCAA from labeling a game a national championship unless it’s the outcome of a playoff system, said that efforts to tinker with the BCS were bound to fail.
“It’s like communism,” he said at the House Energy and Commerce Committee’s commerce, trade and consumer protection subcommittee hearing. “You can’t fix it.”
Barton, the top Republican on the committee, quipped that the BCS should drop the “C” from its name because it doesn’t represent a true championship.
“Call it the ‘BS’ system,” he said to laughter. Under the BCS, some conferences get automatic bids to participate while others do not. Conferences that get an automatic bid — the ACC, Big East, Big 12, Big Ten, Pac-10 and SEC — get about \$18 million each, far more than the non-conference schools. Swofford is also commissioner of the ACC.
“How is this fair?” asked the subcommittee chairman, Democratic Rep. Bobby Rush of Illinois, who has co-sponsored Barton’s bill. “How can we justify this system ... are the big guys getting together and shutting out the little guys?”
“I think it is fair, because it represents the marketplace,” Swofford responded.
Craig Thompson, commissioner of the Mountain West Commission, which does not get an automatic bid, called the money distribution system “grossly inequitable.”
The MWC has proposed a playoff system and hired a Washington firm to lobby Congress for changes to the BCS, which currently features a championship game between the two top teams in the BCS standings, based on two polls and six computer ratings.
The MWC proposes, among others things, scrapping the BCS standings and creating a 12-member committee to pick which teams receive at-large bids, and to select and seed the eight teams chosen for the playoff. The BCS has previously discussed, and dismissed, the idea of using a selection committee.
The four current BCS games — the Sugar, Orange, Rose and Fiesta bowls — would host the four first-round playoff games under the proposal. Thompson has argued that a playoff system would be a boon for those bowls, because they would help determine the national

champion.
Gene Bleymaier, athletic director at Boise State University, noted that his school’s football team went undefeated several times, yet never got a chance to play for the national championship under the BCS. “The BCS system not only restricts access but essentially precludes schools from playing in the national championship,” he said.
Asked by Rush whether Congress should intervene, Bleymaier responded, “The only way this is going to change is with help from the outside.”
The BCS is in its final season of a four-year deal with the Fox network. A new four-year deal with ESPN, worth \$125 million per year, begins with the 2011 bowl games. That deal was negotiated using the current BCS format. While ESPN has said it would not stand in the way if the BCS wanted to change, the new deal allows the BCS to put off making major changes until the 2014 season.
The hearing, with the appealing combination of sports and politics, attracted considerable attention on a relatively quiet day on Capitol Hill. The subject also is a boon to lawmakers, who have some constituents still seething because their team was passed over. Last year, Sen. Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania made headlines when he questioned the NFL’s destruction of tapes in the Spygate case. The league disciplined the New England Patriots for videotaping signals from the New York Jets’ sideline during a game.
The BCS has come under attack from several politicians. Last November, as president-elect, Barack Obama told “60 Minutes” he would prefer an eight-team playoff system.
“I don’t know any serious fan of college football who has disagreed with me on this,” he said. “So I’m going to throw my weight around a little bit.”
In the Senate, Utah Republican Orrin Hatch has put the BCS on the agenda for the Judiciary’s antitrust subcommittee this year, and Utah’s attorney general, Mark Shurtleff, is investigating whether the BCS violates federal antitrust laws.
Fans were furious that Utah was bypassed for the national championship despite going undefeated in the regular season. The title game pitted No. 1 Florida (12-1) against No. 2 Oklahoma (12-1); Florida won 24-14 and claimed the title.

Tiger falls

Continued from page 10

Mickelson was finding his groove until he four-putted from 40 feet for double bogey on the 17th hole. He also had a two-putt par that featured two clubs — a 64-degree sand wedge on the fourth green to get over a steep slope and a putter for the remaining 5 feet.
He will play with Camilo Villegas, who had a 67.
Watson has never won a tournament and doesn’t get much attention except the freak show he puts on with his outrageous length, such as the 380-yard drive at No. 5 that left him a 9-iron into the green on the 569-yard par 5. He plays practice rounds with Woods when he can, but he expected a pairing with Woods in a tournament might be vastly different.
And he says he doesn’t like attention, especially when the cameras come around.
“It’s just because I play golf because I love the golf courses, I love to play, and now I’ve got all these strangers staring at me,” Watson said. “I get nervous around people.”
Woods and Goosen made sure that wouldn’t be the case.
Goosen holed a 20-foot birdie putt on his final hole to join the leaders. A few minutes later, Woods completed his mini-meltdown.
From just off the par-5 15th green in two, his eagle chip was too hard and he missed the 5-foot birdie. Then came a tee shot



into the trees on the 16th, leading to bogey. And on the 18th, his approach went to the back of the green — the pin was in the front — and from 90 feet away, he three-putted for bogey to fall out of the lead.
“I didn’t drive the ball particularly well today, didn’t hit my irons as well as I’d like,” Woods said. “I was hanging in there. If I could have posted 9 (under), I would have probably gotten the most out of that round I could have. It just didn’t work out that way.”
Irons are particularly key, especially with the green so firm that they rarely held shots in the afternoon as the temperatures became steamy and the wind swirled.
Woods was even for his round when he got a big break at the turn, hammering a 55-foot putt that slammed into the back of the cup, went a few inches (centimeters) airborne and dropped into the cup. The fist pump was exchanged for an apologetic smile.
“It would have been in the

grandstands if it didn’t hit the hole,” Woods said. “It was nice to have a train wreck and have it go in.”
It was another example of trying to get the ball in the vicinity of the hole.
“With the greens being this fast and this hard, you’d better have a short iron in your hand,” he said. That was no problem for Watson.
Along with his 9-iron into the par 5 (he had two 5-irons and a 6-iron on the others), Watson hit a sand wedge on the 489-yard 16th hole, a lob wedge on the 459-yard third, and a sand wedge on the 444-yard fourth hole.
His 30 on the front nine matched the course record last set by Woods the day before.
Furyk was at 2 over with five holes left in his opening round when he began to turn it around, and he kept right on going while playing with Woods and David Toms, a trio of past champions at Quail Hollow.

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Fuerza seguridad dispersa marcha oposición Venezuela

CARACAS (Reuters) - Cuerpos de seguridad venezolanos dispersaron el viernes con gases lacrimógenos y balas de goma una marcha opositora en Caracas, luego de que los manifestantes habrían tratado de sobrepasar la ruta permitida, dijo un oficial de la Guardia Nacional. No había reporte de heridos durante el enfrentamiento.

El canal de televisión Globovisión transmitió imágenes de la policía y la Guardia Nacional replegando la protesta en una zona alejada al centro de la capital, luego de que el Gobierno negara un permiso para llegar hasta la sede de la Asamblea Nacional.

“Estamos bloqueando el acceso (...) porque de acuerdo al permiso otorgado, la marcha solamente tiene autorización para llegar a este lugar”, dijo a periodistas el jefe del comando regional de la Guardia Nacional, Alirio Ramírez.

La oposición al presidente Hugo Chávez utilizó la tradicional marcha del Día del Trabajador para protestar contra la intención del mandatario de implantar



Personas huyen de gas lacrimógeno lanzado por policías durante enfrentamientos con manifestantes de la oposición en Caracas, 1 mayo 2009. Cuerpos de seguridad venezolanos dispersaron el viernes con gases lacrimógenos y balas de goma una marcha opositora en Caracas, luego de que los manifestantes habrían tratado de sobrepasar la ruta permitida, dijo un oficial de la Guardia Nacional. REUTERS/Edwin Montilva

tres puntos de la ciudad para concentrarse en los alrededores del palacio presidencial de Miraflores. Chávez apareció en la concentración oficialista y dirigió un enérgico discurso en el que se refirió al incidente en la protesta opositora como un intento de sus detractores políticos por desestabilizar al país.

“Terminan, para llamar la atención en su desespero y en su odio, arremetiendo violenta y salvajemente contra las fuerzas del orden y se vio obligada la Guardia Nacional a dispersarlos con uno que otro potecito de gas lacrimógeno. Pero no vamos a permitir hechos de violencia”, afirmó.

La televisión oficial divulgó tomas de un grupo de personas en la marcha opositora intentando derribar una barrera de seguridad en el punto en que culminaba la marcha, frente a la sede de la Fiscalía.

El opositor alcalde metropolitano de Caracas, Antonio Ledezma, se quejó de que el Gobierno rechazara la intención de los adversarios de llegar hasta la sede del Legislativo para entregar un documento de peticiones.

“¿Por qué hay un grupo que puede manifestar por aquí y por allá y hay otros venezolanos a los que se les coloca talanqueras, barricadas”, dijo a periodistas.

el socialismo en el país y en respaldo al líder opositor Manuel Rosales, actualmente asilado en Perú.

Por su parte, simpatizantes del oficialismo protagonizaron otra marcha que partió desde

México paralizado para frenar mortal gripe

MEXICO DF (Reuters) - México entró el viernes en un letargo, en el primero de los cinco días de una paralización de la segunda mayor economía de América Latina para intentar frenar la expansión de un mortal brote de influenza.

El receso de todos los servicios no esenciales decretado por el Gobierno terminó de vaciar las calles y plazas de la Ciudad de México, una capital con un área urbana de 20 millones de habitantes legendaria por sus atascos de tráfico y aglomeraciones.

El Gobierno mexicano pidió a la población que permanezca recluida en casa para contener el contagio de una epidemia de gripe que habría causado la muerte de hasta 176 personas y se ha expandido a otros 13

países, algunos tan lejanos como Nueva Zelanda o Corea del Sur. Los sindicatos suspendieron la manifestación por el Día del Trabajo.

En centros comerciales de la Ciudad de México, normalmente atestados en un día festivo como el viernes, la música retumbaba en pasillos donde apenas unas pocas personas deambulaban protegidas con mascarillas quirúrgicas.

Los empleados de un restaurante en el barrio colonial de Coyoacán, una de las paradas obligadas de los turistas y donde vivió la pintora Frida Kalho, vaciaban la cocina de comida podrida después de una semana cerrados por la epidemia.

Colombia y EEUU acuerdan debatir nuevos temas de TLC

WASHINGTON (AP) - Los gobiernos de Colombia y Estados Unidos llegaron el viernes a un acuerdo para empezar a debatir “temas largos y complejos” que permitan reactivar la gestión del tratado bilateral de libre comercio en el Congreso, declaró el ministro de Comercio y Turismo, Luis

Guillermo Plata.

Dijo que no podía precisar un calendario para concluir el proceso ya que las partes avanzaron solamente hasta la formación de equipos de trabajo para abordar los temas que “tampoco están enumerados”, pero se refieren a derechos laborales, medio

ambiente y comercio.

Hablando con reporteros al concluir una entrevista con Ron Kirk, representante comercial estadounidense, Plata dijo que en los nuevos contactos se verá si los temas pueden ser tratados independientemente o formarán parte del tratado porque no necesariamente eran “puramente comerciales”.

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Ambassadors of Goodwill
Deborah and Dick Miller

Photo by Diane Keijzer



Singles Night

Cuban Style



SATURDAY MAY 2



PERFORMANCES:

LIVE BAND starting at 10pm

sazon CUBANO

Pachanga Dancers
FREE Mojito shots

Playing Son, Bolero, Salsa, Cha-cha-cha

DJ DIABLO

playing Merenque, Salsa, Bachata y MAS!!

Entrance afl. 10,-

DOOR PRICES :

• Win Dinners • Cuban Cigars •



Free Sol for first 100 visitors
Sol bar with Happy hour

**IMPORTED
BEER**



royal plaza mall, downtown • www.mambojamboaruba.com • www.singles-aruba.com